

Azar Mouzari, Esq. (State Bar No. 263461)
Nilofar Nouri, Esq. (State Bar No. 311871)
BEVERLY HILLS TRIAL ATTORNEYS, P.C.
468 N. Camden Drive, Suite 238
Beverly Hills, California 90210
Tel: 310-858-5567
Fax: 424-286-0963
Email: azar@bhtrialattorneys.com
Email: nilofar@bhtrialattorneys.com

Attorneys for Plaintiff AISHA MCKINNEY and Proposed Class

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

AISHA MCKINNEY, individually
and on behalf of all others similarly
situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

JUNIPER HOSPITALITY, LLC, a
California Limited Liability
Company, and DOES 1-10, inclusive.

Defendants.

Case No.:

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

**1) VIOLATION OF THE
AMERICANS WITH
DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990, 42
U.S.C. § 12181**

**2) VIOLATION OF UNRUH
CIVIL RIGHTS ACT
(CALIFORNIA CIVIL CODE §§
51, 52, *et seq.*)**

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

1 Plaintiff, Ms. Aisha McKinney (“Plaintiff”), individually and on behalf of all others
2 similarly situated, alleges the following based upon information and belief:
3

4
5 **I. NATURE OF THE CASE**

6 1. Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated persons (hereafter
7 “Class Members”), brings this civil rights action against Juniper Hospitality, LLC, a California
8 Limited Liability Company, (“Defendant”) seeking to put an end to the systemic civil rights
9 violations committed by Defendant against Plaintiff and the Class Members.
10

11 2. Plaintiff is a visually-impaired and legally blind person who requires screen-reading
12 software to access and read website content using her computer. Plaintiff uses the terms “blind”
13 or “visually-impaired” herein to refer to all people with visual impairments who meet the legal
14 definition of blindness in that they fall within the meaning of the Americans with Disabilities Act
15 (“ADA”) and California’s Unruh Civil Rights Act (“UCRA”), Cal. Civ. Code § 51, *et seq.* and
16 have a visual acuity with correction of less than or equal to 20 x 200.
17

18 3. Plaintiff, and all other visually impaired individuals, are unnecessarily denied equal
19 access to the same online information and goods and services offered to others because
20 Defendant’s website, <https://www.juniperandivy.com/> (the “Website”), and all subgroups of
21 webpages contained in the Website are not fully accessible to screen-reading technology used by
22 blind individuals. This relegates visually impaired customers of Defendant to a second-class
23 experience. If Defendant’s Website was accessible, then visually impaired individuals could
24 independently access information relating to the pricing, description, and details of Defendant’s
25 goods and services, with the same convenience available to others. In contrast with Defendant,
26
27
28

1 many other businesses operate websites and mobile applications that are fully accessible to
2 visually impaired individuals.

3 4. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff alleges that Defendant owns, operates, markets
4 and/or monetizes restaurants, including one(s) located in California. The restaurant(s), which are
5 places of public accommodation open to the public, offer various dining and drink options to
6 customers.

7
8 5. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff alleges that Defendant owns, operates, manages,
9 updates and/or monetizes its Website, which provides to the public a wide array of services,
10 information, online reservation features, price lists, menus and/or other programs relating to the
11 brick-and-mortar restaurant(s).

12
13 6. Defendant's Website contains significant access barriers that make it impossible for
14 visually impaired customers to properly and fully utilize the Website. Specifically, these barriers
15 make it impossible for Plaintiff, and the Class Members, to have full access to the Website and
16 independently review dining menus, make restaurant reservations and/or review pricing and
17 detailed information about other services offered by Defendant online.

18
19 7. Defendant thus excludes the visually impaired from full and equal participation in the
20 growing Internet economy that is increasingly a fundamental part of the common marketplace
21 and daily living. In the wave of technological advances in recent years, assistive computer
22 technology is becoming an increasingly prominent part of everyday life for visually impaired
23 individuals, allowing them to fully and independently access a variety of services, including
24 making dining reservations, reviewing restaurant menus and reserving other services.

25
26 8. Despite readily available methods to render websites fully accessible to all, such as the
27 methods in use by other restaurants, which make correct and proper use of alternative text,
28

1 accessible forms, descriptive links, resizable text, and labels, Defendant has failed to design,
2 construct, maintain, and operate its Website to be fully accessible to and independently usable by
3 Plaintiff and other visually-impaired individuals, including the Class Members.

4 9. Defendant's denial of full and equal access to its Website, and therefore denial of its
5 products and services offered thereby and in conjunction with its physical location, is a violation
6 of Plaintiff and the Class Members' rights under the ADA and California's UCRA.

7 10. Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 et seq.) and
8 California's Unruh Civil Rights Act (Cal. Civil Code §§ 51-53) have provided a clear, national
9 mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities. Such
10 discrimination includes barriers to full integration, independent living, and equal opportunity for
11 persons with disabilities, including those barriers created by websites and other public
12 accommodations that are inaccessible to blind and visually impaired persons. Specifically, the
13 ADA mandates that places of public accommodation, provide auxiliary aids and services to make
14 visual materials available to individuals who are visually impaired, including Plaintiff. Under the
15 ADA, a place of public accommodation engages in unlawful discrimination if it fails to "take
16 such steps as may be necessary to ensure that no individual with a disability is excluded, denied
17 services, segregated or otherwise treated differently than other individuals because of the
18 absence of auxiliary aids and services." 42 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(2)(A)(iii). Additionally, California
19 state law mandates equal protection of persons with disabilities, requiring that places of public
20 accommodation provide access to goods, services and facilities for persons with disabilities. *See*
21 UCRA, Cal. Civ. Code § 51, *et seq.*

22 11. Unless Defendant remedies the numerous access barriers on its Website, Plaintiff and the
23 Class Members will continue to be unable to independently navigate, browse, use, access and/or
24
25
26
27
28

1 complete a transaction on the Website. Because Defendant's Website is not equally accessible to
2 blind and visually-impaired consumers in violation of the ADA and the UCRA, this complaint
3 seeks declaratory and injunctive relief to correct Defendant's policies and practices to include
4 measures necessary to ensure compliance with federal and state law and to include monitoring of
5 such measures, to update and remove accessibility barriers on the Website so that Plaintiff and
6 the Class Members may be able to independently and privately use Defendant's Website. This
7 complaint also seeks compensatory damages to Plaintiff and the Class Members for having been
8 subjected to unlawful discrimination.
9

10 **II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

11
12 12. This Court has subject-matter jurisdiction over this action under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and
13 42 U.S.C. § 12181, as Plaintiffs' claims arise under Title III of the ADA, 42 U.S.C. § 12181, *et*
14 *seq.*, and 28 U.S.C. § 1332. Supplemental jurisdiction for claims brought under parallel
15 California law – arising from the same nucleus of operative facts – is predicated on 28 U.S.C. §
16 1367. Plaintiffs' Unruh Act claims are formed from the same case and/or controversy and are
17 related to Plaintiff's ADA claims. A violation of the ADA is a violation of the Unruh Act. (Cal.
18 Civil Code § 51(f)).
19

20 13. This Court also has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because it conducts and
21 continues to conduct a substantial and significant amount of business in the State of California,
22 and because Defendant's offending Website is available across California. The brick-and-mortar
23 location(s) of Defendant's subject restaurant(s) are also located in the State of California.
24

25 14. Defendant has been and is committing the acts alleged herein in the Central District of
26 California, and has been and is violating the rights of Plaintiff and other consumers with
27 disabilities in this District, and has been and is causing injury to Plaintiff and the Class Members
28

1 in this District. All events giving rise to Plaintiff's causes of action took place in the State of
2 California, County of Los Angeles. Therefore, jurisdiction of this Court is proper.

3 15. Venue is proper in this Court because Plaintiff resides in this District, Defendant
4 conducts and continues to conduct a substantial and significant amount of business in this
5 District, Defendant is also subject to personal jurisdiction in this District, and a substantial
6 portion of the conduct complained of herein occurred in this District.
7

8 **III. PARTIES**

9 16. Plaintiff, at all times relevant and as alleged herein, is a resident of California, County of
10 Los Angeles.
11

12 17. Plaintiff is a blind, visually-impaired handicapped person. Plaintiff uses screen-reader
13 software to access and operate websites and mobile applications. Plaintiff is knowledgeable
14 about certain tools which allow visually impaired individuals to access websites, including
15 various screen-reader software.
16

17 18. Plaintiff has attempted to use Defendant's Website, as recently as early 2022, in order to
18 access information concerning Defendant's services, offers, dining and drink options and/or
19 online dining reservations. She has been unable to access information and services offered to
20 others through the Website. She desires to use Defendant's Website and has the necessary
21 computer technology to do so if it were fully accessible to the visually impaired.
22

23 19. The access barriers Plaintiff has encountered on Defendant's Website have deterred
24 Plaintiff from visiting Defendant's brick-and-mortar location(s).

25 20. Unnamed Class Plaintiffs, are, and at all times relevant herein, were residents of the
26
27
28

1 State of California. Each of these Plaintiffs encountered access barriers on Defendant's Website
2 and was unable to use Defendant's Website, deterring him/her from visiting Defendant's brick-
3 and-mortar location(s).

4 21. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff alleges that Defendant owns, operates, markets
5 and/or monetizes restaurants, including one(s) located within California. The restaurant(s),
6 which are places of public accommodation open to the public, offer various dining and drink
7 options to customers.
8

9 22. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff alleges that Defendant owns, operates, manages,
10 updates and/or monetizes its Website, which provides to the public a wide array of services,
11 information, online reservation features, price lists, menus and/or other programs relating to the
12 brick-and-mortar restaurant(s).
13

14 23. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that, at all relevant times,
15 Defendant has continuously been doing business in California.
16

17 24. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that Defendant is in control of the
18 fundamental aspects of the Website which gives rise to the violations stated herein.

19 25. Defendant's brick-and-mortar restaurant(s), including ones located in California, are
20 places of public accommodation open to the public, that offer various dining and drink options to
21 customers. *See* 42 U.S.C. § 12181(7) and UCRA, Cal. Civ. Code § 51, *et seq.* Defendant's
22 Website is a service, privilege, or advantage of Defendant's physical location(s). Through the
23 Website, customers may review various dining and drink options, access information concerning
24 Defendant's services, promotions and offers and/or make dining reservations.
25

26 26. The access barriers Plaintiff encountered on Defendant's Website have caused a denial of
27 Plaintiff's full and equal access multiple times in the past, and now deter Plaintiff on a regular
28

1 basis from full access to Defendant's Website. Similarly, the access barriers Plaintiff
2 encountered on Defendant's Website have impeded Plaintiff's full and equal enjoyment of goods
3 and services offered at Defendant's brick-and-mortar location(s).

4 27. The true names or capacities, whether individual, corporate, associate or otherwise of
5 defendants, DOES 1 through 10, inclusive, are unknown to Plaintiff who therefore sues said
6 DOE defendants by such fictitious names.

8 28. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that each of the defendants
9 designated herein as a DOE is responsible for the unlawful acts as herein alleged, and Plaintiff
10 will ask leave of the Court to amend this complaint to show its true names and capacities when
11 same have been ascertained.

13 29. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that at all times herein mentioned
14 Defendants, and each of them, were the agents, servants and employees each of the other, acting
15 within the course and scope of said agency and employment, with the full knowledge and
16 consent of each of the Defendants. Each of the acts and/or omissions alleged herein were made
17 known to and ratified by each of the Defendants (including any DOE defendant).

19 30. Defendant and each and every DOE Defendant shall be referred to collectively as
20 "Defendants" hereafter.

21 **IV. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

22 31. Plaintiff and the Class Members are informed and believe, and thereon allege that
23 Defendants operate a brick-and-mortar location(s) that offer services for sale to the general
24 public, including but not limited to restaurant(s).

26 32. Plaintiff and the Class Members are informed and believe, and thereon allege that
27 Defendants operate, maintain, update, monetize and/or own a branded Internet website located at
28

1 <https://www.juniperandivy.com/> for potential and existing customers to conveniently obtain
2 information relating to Defendant's services, promotions, offers and/or make reservations related
3 to dining experiences, and other services.

4 33. Customers use Defendants' Website to access many services available at Defendants'
5 brick-and-mortar location(s).
6

7 34. It is undisputed that the Internet has become a significant source of information for
8 conducting business and for doing everyday activities such as shopping, banking, etc., for
9 sighted and visually impaired individuals. When properly accessible, the Internet provides
10 individuals with disabilities significant independence. Visually impaired individuals regularly
11 access a broad range of accessible Internet websites through the use of screen-reader technology,
12 which can translate visual information on a website into nonvisual formats such as synthesized
13 speech and refreshable Braille.
14

15 35. Visually impaired individuals regularly access a broad range of accessible Internet
16 websites through the use of screen-reader technology, which can translate visual information on
17 a website into nonvisual formats such as synthesized speech and refreshable Braille.
18

19 36. Except for legally blind individuals whose residual vision allows them to use them to use
20 magnification, screen reading technology is the only method which allows visually impaired
21 individuals independent access to the Internet. In this case, Plaintiff can only access the Internet
22 independently with the assistance of a screen-reader.
23

24 37. For the screen reader technology to function, the information on a website must be
25 capable of being rendered into meaningful text. If the website content is constructed such that it
26 cannot be rendered into meaningful text, visually impaired individuals are unable to access the
27
28

1 same content available to sighted individuals because they cannot detect what is depicted on the
2 screen and, for example, click where required to access further information and services.

3 38. There are well-established industry adopted guidelines for making websites accessible to
4 visually impaired individuals. These guidelines have been in place for at least several years and
5 have been followed successfully by other large business entities in making their websites
6 accessible. The Web Accessibility Initiative (“WAI”), a project of the World Wide Web
7 Consortium which is the leading standards organization of the Web, has developed guidelines for
8 website accessibility.
9

10 39. The federal government has also promulgated website accessibility standards under
11 Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. These guidelines are readily available via the Internet, so
12 that a business designing a website can easily access them.
13

14 40. These guidelines recommend several basic and easily to implement components for
15 making websites accessible, including, but not limited to: adding invisible alt-text to graphics;
16 ensuring that all functions can be performed using a keyboard and screen reader; ensuring that
17 image maps are accessible; removing empty links or headings which are confusing; removing
18 PDF documents which do not allow screen-readers to fully and properly read the text; and
19 adding headings and links so that visually impaired people can easily navigate the site. Without
20 these very basic components a website will be inaccessible to a visually impaired person using a
21 screen reader.
22

23 41. In this case, based on information and belief, Plaintiff and the Class Members allege that
24 Defendants have a policy and practice of denying the visually impaired full access to their
25 Website, including access to the services offered by Defendants through their Website. Due to
26 Defendants’ failure and refusal to remove access barriers to their Website, visually impaired
27
28

1 individuals have been and are being denied equal access to Defendants' brick-and-mortar
2 location(s), as well as to the numerous services and benefits offered to the public through their
3 Website.

4 42. Defendants deny the visually impaired full access to services and information made
5 available through their Website by preventing them from freely navigating the Website.
6

7 43. Defendants' Website contains access barriers that prevent free and full use by visually
8 impaired persons using keyboards and screen reading software. These barriers are pervasive and
9 include, but are not limited to: lack of alt-text or text equivalent on graphics, inaccessible forms,
10 the lack of adequate prompting and labeling, the denial of keyboard access, empty links and
11 headings, inability to complete important tasks using the keyboard and screen reader alone,
12 and/or documents in PDF or other inaccessible formats, which are not fully readable or navigable
13 using a screen reader.
14

15 44. Alternative text ("Alt-text") is invisible code embedded beneath a graphical image on a
16 website. Web accessibility requires that alt-text be coded with each picture so that a screen
17 reader can speak the alternative text while a sighted user sees the picture. Alt-text does not
18 change the visual presentation except that it appears as a text pop-up when the mouse moves
19 over the picture. There are many important pictures on Defendants' Website that lack a text
20 equivalent. The lack of Alt-text on these graphics prevents screen readers from accurately
21 vocalizing a description of the graphics. Screen readers detect and vocalize Alt-text to provide a
22 description of the image to a blind computer user. As a result, visually impaired customers of
23 Defendants are unable to effectively determine what is on the Website and fully browse the site.
24
25

26 45. Defendants' Website also includes numerous instances of empty links and headings
27 which prevent visually-impaired individuals from recognizing the function or purposes of links
28

1 and headings contained in the Website. If a link or heading contains no text, the function or
2 purpose of the link or heading will not be presented to the user. This can introduce confusion for
3 keyboard and screen reader users.

4 46. As another example of barriers present on Defendants' Website, there are several
5 occurrences of links to documents in either PDF or other inaccessible formats which cannot be
6 competently read by screen readers. This includes, but is not limited, to specific information
7 relating to Defendants' services, goods, promotions and/or offers, which are not fully accessible
8 to visually impaired screen readers. In general, unless authored with accessibility in mind,
9 documents in PDF or other inaccessible formats often have accessibility issues. Additionally,
10 such documents are typically viewed using a separate application or plug-in, and can thus cause
11 confusion and navigation difficulties. In fact, the text that is accessible in such documents is
12 presented in a confusing, scattered manner to screen reader users, not readily allowing
13 navigability and creating significant barriers to access.

14 47. Finally, as another example of barriers present on Defendant's Website, there are several
15 occurrences where functions cannot be performed using a keyboard and screen reader. This
16 includes, but is not limited, to sections concerning specific information relating to Defendants'
17 services, goods, promotions and/or offers, which are not fully accessible to visually impaired
18 screen readers.

19 48. Due to Defendants' Website inaccessibility, visually impaired customers of Defendants
20 cannot independently investigate services and programs offered by Defendants via the Internet as
21 sighted individuals can and do.

22 49. Defendants' Website thus contains significant access barriers which deny full and equal
23 access to Plaintiff, and Class Members, who would otherwise use their Website and who would
24
25
26
27
28

1 otherwise be able to fully and equally enjoy the benefits and services of Defendants' brick-and-
2 mortar location(s).

3 50. Plaintiff has personally patronized Defendants' Website in the past, including as recently
4 as early 2022, and intends to continue to patronize Defendants' Website. However, unless
5 Defendant is required to eliminate the access barriers at issue, and required to change their
6 policies so that access barriers do not reoccur on Defendants' Website, Plaintiff and the Class
7 Members will continue to be denied full access to the Website as described, and will be deterred
8 from fully using Defendants' Website.
9

10 51. Specifically, the last time Plaintiff attempted to do business with Defendants using their
11 Website was in early 2022, and Plaintiff still encountered barriers to access on their Website.
12 Despite past and recent attempts to do business with Defendants on their Website, the numerous
13 access barriers contained on the Website and encountered by Plaintiff and the Class Members
14 have denied Plaintiff and the Class Members full and equal access to Defendants' Website.
15 Plaintiff and the Class Members, as a result of the barriers on the Website, continue to be
16 deterred on a regular basis from accessing Defendant's Website. Likewise, based on the
17 numerous access barriers Plaintiff and the Class Members have been precluded from the full and
18 equal enjoyment of services offered in Defendants' physical location.
19
20

21 52. If Defendants' Website was equally accessible to all, Plaintiff and the Class Members
22 could independently navigate the Website, review dining options, and find other information
23 relating to Defendants' services, as sighted individuals do.
24

25 53. Through her many attempts to use Defendants' Website, Plaintiff has actual knowledge
26 of the access barriers that make these privileges or services inaccessible and independently
27 unusable by blind and visually-impaired people.
28

1 54. There are readily available and easy to implement guidelines, available to Defendant on
2 the Internet, for designing, constructing and maintaining websites to be accessible to blind and
3 visually-impaired persons. Other large business entities have used these guidelines, or have
4 otherwise been able, to make their websites accessible, including but not limited to: adding alt-
5 text to graphics, including labels for each form control and text for all links, providing
6 alternatives to inaccessible documents and ensuring that all significant functions can be
7 performed using a keyboard. In addition, incorporating these basic changes and adding certain
8 elements to Defendants' Website accessibility would not fundamentally alter the nature of
9 Defendants' business nor would it result in an undue burden to Defendants.
10

11 55. Because maintaining and providing a website where all functions can be performed using
12 a keyboard, would provide full, independent and equal accessible to all consumers, Plaintiff
13 alleges that Defendants have engaged in acts of intentional discrimination, including but not
14 limited to the following policies or practices:
15

- 16 a. Construction and maintenance of a Website that is inaccessible to visually-
17 impaired individuals, including Plaintiff;
18 b. Failure to construct and maintain a website that is sufficiently intuitive so as to be
19 equally accessible to visually-impaired individuals, including Plaintiff; and,
20 c. Failure to take actions to correct these access barriers in the face of substantial
21 harm and discrimination to blind and visually-impaired consumers, such as
22 Plaintiff.
23

24 56. Because Defendants' Website has never been equally accessible, and because Defendants
25 lack a corporate policy that is reasonably calculated to cause the Website to become and remain
26
27
28

1 accessible, Defendants therefore use standards, criteria or methods of administration that have
2 the effect of discriminating or perpetuating the discrimination of others, as alleged herein.

3 57. If Defendants' Website were equally and fully accessible to all, Plaintiff and similarly
4 situated visually impaired people could independently view information on the Website, review
5 dining options and other information relating to services available via Defendants' Website.
6

7 58. Although Defendants may currently have centralized policies regarding the maintenance
8 and operation of their Website, Defendants lack a plan and policy reasonably calculated to make
9 the Website fully and equally accessible to, and independently usable by, the visually impaired.
10

11 59. Without injunctive relief, Plaintiff and other visually-impaired consumers, including
12 Class Members, will continue to be unable to independently use the Defendants' Website in
13 violation of their rights.

14 **V. CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

15 60. Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated, seeks to certify a California
16 class under California *Code of Civil Procedure* section 382 and California *Civil Code* section
17 1781, initially defined as follows:
18

19 All legally blind individuals in the State of California who have attempted to
20 access Defendants' website by the use of a screen reading software during the
21 applicable limitations period up to and including final judgment in this action.

22 61. Excluded from the Class are Defendants' officers, employees, agents or affiliates, and
23 any judge who presides over this action, as well as past and present employees, officers and
24 directors of Defendants. Plaintiffs reserve the right to expand, limit, modify, or amend this Class
25 definition, including the addition of one or more subclasses, in connection with their motion for
26 class certification, or at any other time, based upon, inter alia, changing circumstances and/or
27 new facts obtained during discovery.
28

A. Commonality

62. There are questions of law and fact that are common to the claims of Plaintiff. Among these common questions are the following:

(a) Whether Defendants' Website, <https://www.juniperandivy.com/>, is inaccessible to the visually-impaired who use screen reading software to access internet websites;

(b) Whether Plaintiff and Class Members have been unable to access <https://www.juniperandivy.com/> through the use of screen reading software;

(c) Whether the deficiencies in Defendants' Website violate the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. § 12181 *et seq.*;

(d) Whether the deficiencies in Defendants' Website violate the California Unruh Civil Rights Act, California Civil Code § 51 *et seq.*;

(e) Whether, and to what extent, injunctive relief should be imposed on Defendants to make <https://www.juniperandivy.com/> readily accessible to and usable by visually-impaired individuals;

(f) Whether Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to recover statutory damages with respect to Defendants' wrongful conduct; and

(g) Whether further legal and/or equitable relief should be granted by the Court in this action.

B. Numerosity

63. The members of the Class are so numerous that separate joinder of each member is impracticable. While the exact number and identities of other Class Members are unknown to Plaintiff at this time, Plaintiff is informed and believes that there are thousands of

Members in the Class. The Members of the Class are so numerous that joinder of all Members is impracticable, and the disposition of their claims in a class action rather than in individual actions will benefit the parties and the Court.

C. Typicality

64. Plaintiff and Class Members' claims are typical of the claims of Members of the Class as all Members of the Class are similarly affected by Defendant's wrongful conduct, as detailed herein.

65. Upon information and belief, there has never been a prior lawsuit certified as a class on behalf of Plaintiff based on the allegations in this Complaint.

D. Adequacy of Representation

66. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class and is committed to the vigorous prosecution of this action. She has retained competent counsel, experienced in litigation of this nature, to represent her and members of the Class. There is no hostility between Plaintiff and the unnamed Class members. Plaintiff anticipates no difficulty in the management of this litigation as a class action.

67. To prosecute this case, Plaintiff have chosen the law firm of Beverly Hills Trial Attorneys, P.C., whose attorneys have represented plaintiffs in class actions and as private attorneys general in bringing public interest actions.

E. Superiority

68. A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy. Since the damages sustained by individual Class Members may be relatively small, the expense and burden of individual litigation makes it impracticable for the Members of the Class to individually seek redress for the wrongful conduct alleged herein.

1 Furthermore, the adjudication of this controversy through a class action will avoid the potentially
2 inconsistent and conflicting adjudications of the claims asserted herein. There will be no
3 difficulty in the management of this action as a class action. If Class treatment of these claims
4 were not available, Defendant would likely unfairly receive thousands of dollars or more in
5 improper revenue.
6

7 69. *Common Questions Predominate:* Common questions of law and fact exist as to all
8 Members of the Class and predominate over any questions solely affecting individual Members
9 of the Class. Among the common questions of law and fact applicable to the Class are:
10

11 (a) Whether Defendants' Website, <https://www.juniperandivy.com/>, is
12 inaccessible to the visually-impaired who use screen reading software to access internet
13 websites;
14

15 (b) Whether Plaintiff and Class Members have been unable to access
16 <https://www.juniperandivy.com/> through the use of screen reading software;
17

18 (c) Whether the deficiencies in Defendants' Website violate the Americans
19 with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. § 12181 *et seq.*;
20

21 (d) Whether the deficiencies in Defendants' Website violate the California
22 Unruh Civil Rights Act, California Civil Code § 51 *et seq.*;
23

24 (e) Whether, and to what extent, injunctive relief should be imposed on
25 Defendants to make <https://www.juniperandivy.com/> readily accessible to and usable by
26 visually-impaired individuals;
27

28 (f) Whether Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to recover statutory
damages with respect to Defendants' wrongful conduct; and
29

(g) Whether further legal and/or equitable relief should be granted by the Court

1 in this action.

2 70. The class is readily definable, and prosecution of this action as a Class action will reduce
3 the possibility of repetitious litigation. Plaintiff does not foresee any issues in the management of
4 this litigation which would preclude the maintenance of this matter as a Class action.
5

6 71. The prosecution of separate actions by Members of the Class would create a risk of
7 establishing inconsistent rulings and/or incompatible standards of conduct for Defendants.
8 Additionally, individual actions may be dispositive of the interest of all Members of the Class,
9 although certain Class Members are not parties to such actions.
10

11 72. Defendants' conduct is generally applicable to the Class as a whole and Plaintiff seek,
12 inter alia, equitable remedies with respect to the Class as a whole. As such, Defendants'
13 systematic policies and practices make declaratory relief with respect to the Class as a whole
14 appropriate.
15

16
17 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**
18 **Violation Of The Americans With Disabilities Act**
(42 U.S.C. § 12181, *et seq.*)

19 73. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all paragraphs alleged above and each
20 and every other paragraph hereafter necessary or helpful to state this cause of action as though
21 fully set forth herein.
22

23 74. Section 302(a) of Title III of the ADA, 42 U.S.C. § 12181 *et seq.*, provides: "No
24 individual shall be discriminated against on the basis of disability in the full and equal enjoyment
25 of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations of any place of
26 public accommodation by any person who owns, leases (or leases to), or operates a place of
27 public accommodation." 42 U.S.C. § 12182(a).
28

1 75. Under Section 302(b)(2) of Title III of the ADA, unlawful discrimination also includes,
2 among other things: “a failure to make reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or
3 procedures, when such modifications are necessary to afford such goods, services, facilities,
4 privileges, advantages, or accommodations to individuals with disabilities, unless the entity can
5 demonstrate that making such modifications would fundamentally alter the nature of such goods,
6 services, facilities, privileges, advantages or accommodations”; and “a failure to take such steps
7 as may be necessary to ensure that no individual with a disability is excluded, denied services,
8 segregated or otherwise treated differently than other individuals because of the absence of
9 auxiliary aids and services, unless the entity can demonstrate that taking such steps would
10 fundamentally alter the nature of the good, service, facility, privilege, advantage, or
11 accommodation being offered or would result in an undue burden.” 42 U.S.C. §
12 12182(b)(2)(A)(ii)-(iii). “A public accommodation shall take those steps that may be necessary
13 to ensure that no individual with a disability is excluded, denied services, segregated or
14 otherwise treated differently than other individuals because of the absence of auxiliary aids and
15 services, unless the public accommodation can demonstrate that taking those steps would
16 fundamentally alter the nature of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or
17 accommodations being offered or would result in an undue burden, i.e., significant difficulty or
18 expense.” 28 C.F.R. § 36.303(a). In order to be effective, auxiliary aids and services must be
19 provided in accessible formats, in a timely manner, and in such a way as to protect the privacy
20 and independence of the individual with a disability.” 28 C.F.R. § 36.303(c)(1)(ii). Defendant’s
21 location is a “public accommodation” within the meaning of 42 U.S.C. § 12181 *et seq.*
22 Defendants generate significant revenue, either directly or indirectly, from access to their
23 Website. Defendants’ Website is a service provided by Defendants that is not fully accessible to
24
25
26
27
28

1 patrons who are blind or visually-impaired like Plaintiff. This inaccessibility denies visually
2 impaired customers full and equal enjoyment of and access to the facilities and services,
3 privileges, advantages, and accommodations that Defendant makes available to the non-disabled
4 public. Defendant is violating the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12181 *et seq.*, in
5 that Defendant denies visually impaired customers the services, privileges, advantages, and
6 accommodations provided by <https://www.juniperandivy.com/>. These violations are ongoing.

8
9 76. Defendant's actions constitute intentional discrimination against Plaintiff on the basis of
10 a disability in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12181 *et seq.* in that:
11 Defendant has constructed a website that is inaccessible to Plaintiff; maintains the website in this
12 inaccessible form; and has failed to take adequate actions to correct these barriers even after
13 being notified of the discrimination that such barriers cause.

14
15 77. Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 12188 and the remedies, procedures, and rights set forth and
16 incorporated therein, Plaintiff requests relief as set forth below.

17
18 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**
19 **Violation of Unruh Civil Rights Act**
(California Civil Code §§ 51, 52, *et seq.*)

20 78. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all paragraphs alleged above and each
21 and every other paragraph hereafter necessary or helpful to state this cause of action as though
22 fully set forth herein.

23 79. The Unruh Civil Rights Act guarantees, *inter alia*, that persons with disabilities are
24 entitled to full and equal accommodations, advantages, facilities, privileges, or services in all
25 business establishments of every kind whatsoever within the jurisdiction of the state of
26 California. *See* Cal. Civ. Code § 51(b).

1 80. Defendants own, operate, supervise, and/or manage a restaurant, which provide services
2 to the general public in California and elsewhere. Defendants' business establishment is within
3 the jurisdiction of the state of California, and as such are obligated to comply with the provisions
4 of the UCRA, California Civil Code §§ 51, *et seq.*

5
6 81. Upon information and belief, Defendants generate significant revenue, either directly or
7 indirectly, from access to their Website. Defendants' Website is a service provided by
8 Defendants that is not fully accessible to patrons who are blind or visually-impaired like
9 Plaintiff. This inaccessibility denies blind and visually-impaired patrons full and equal access to
10 the facilities, goods, and services that Defendants make available to the non-disabled public.
11 Defendants are violating the UCRA, Civil Code §§ 51, *et seq.*, by denying visually-impaired
12 customers the goods and services provided on their Website. These violations are ongoing.

13
14 82. Defendants' actions constitute intentional discrimination against Plaintiff and the Class
15 Members on the basis of a disability, in violation of the UCRA, Civil Code §§ 51, *et seq.*,
16 because, among other things, (1) Defendants have constructed, maintained, owned, monetized
17 and/or operated a Website that is inaccessible to visually impaired individuals, such as Plaintiff;
18 (2) Defendants have opted to maintain this Website in such an inaccessible form despite well-
19 established and readily implementable industry guidelines for making websites accessible; (3)
20 and Defendants have failed to take action to correct and rectify these barriers even after being on
21 notice of the discrimination that such barriers may create for visually impaired individuals, such
22 as Plaintiff.

23
24
25 83. Defendants are further violating the UCRA, Civil Code §§ 51, *et seq.*, because the
26 conduct as alleged herein violates various provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act
27 ("ADA"), 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101, *et seq.*, for the reasons set forth above. Under Cal. Civ. Code §
28

1 51(f), a violation of an individual's rights under the ADA also constitutes a violation under the
2 UCRA. Defendants' discriminatory conduct alleged herein includes, *inter alia*, the violation of
3 the rights of persons with disabilities set forth in Title III of the ADA and, therefore, also violates
4 the Unruh Act. *See* Cal. Civ. Code § 51(f).

5
6 84. Unless the Court enjoins Defendants from continuing to engage in these unlawful
7 practices, Plaintiff and the Class Members will continue to suffer irreparable harm. Plaintiff and
8 the Class Members are therefore entitled to injunctive relief remedying the discrimination.
9 Plaintiff expressly limits the cost of injunctive relief sought to \$15,000 or less.

10
11 85. Plaintiff and Class Members are also entitled to statutory minimum damages pursuant to
12 UCRA, Civil Code § 52 for each and every offense. Plaintiff hereby expressly limits the amount
13 Plaintiff seeks for all offenses to a total of \$34,999 or less.

14 86. Plaintiff and Class Members are further entitled to reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

15 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

16 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of all Class Members, respectfully
17 requests judgment against Defendants, as follows:

- 18
19 A. For an Order certifying the Class as defined herein and appointing Plaintiff and her
20 Counsel to represent the Class;
- 21 B. A preliminary and permanent injunction pursuant directing Defendant to comply with the
22 Americans with Disability Act and the Unruh Civil Rights Act, and requiring Defendant
23 to take the steps necessary to make <https://www.juniperandivy.com/>, and all of the
24 webpages and urls contained therein readily accessible to and usable by visually impaired
25 individuals;
26
27
28

- 1 C. For an award of all appropriate damages to Plaintiff and the proposed Class members,
2 including but not limited to statutory damages, general damages and treble damages in
3 amounts, according to proof;
4
5 D. For attorneys' fees and expenses, and costs of suit pursuant to all applicable laws;
6
7 E. For pre-judgment interest to the extent permitted by law;
8
9 F. For such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

10 **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

11 Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated, hereby respectfully
12 requests a trial by jury on all appropriate issues raised in this Complaint.

13 Dated: May 5, 2022

BEVERLY HILLS TRIAL ATTORNEYS, P.C.

15 /s/ Azar Mouzari
16 Azar Mouzari, Esq.
17 Nilofar Nouri, Esq.
18 Attorney for Plaintiffs
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28